

Sunday, February 27, 2022 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church

**Bible Study – Luke 9:28-36, 37-43
“Seeing the Glory”**

Open with a word of prayer

Gathering Time (5-10 minutes) In groups of two or three, respond to the following, “How well do you embrace change? Can change ever be good?”

Luke 9:28-36, 37-43 Context. This week's reading falls into two parts: the first is the story of the Transfiguration of Jesus, and the second is the healing of the epileptic boy. The Transfiguration is a classic theophany, i.e., revelation of God: Jesus' appearance “changes” and his clothes appear dazzling. The scene takes place on “the mountain,” and is surrounded by the glory of Moses and Elijah, the greatest religious leaders of Israel. They discuss Jesus' imminent “departure” (in Greek: “exodos”). Their mighty works were echoed in the deeds of Jesus: commanding the sea, reviving the dead, feeding the multitude, etc. Not only was Jesus worthy of their company, but as the voice from the cloud proclaims, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” But the disciples didn't understand – even Peter, who had eight days before confessed Jesus as the Messiah. The second part of the reading expresses Jesus' growing impatience with those who couldn't understand what was happening in their midst, his desire to get on with his mission, and his inexhaustible willingness to make whole the brokenness that confronted him.

Read Luke 9:28-36, 37-43

What touches your heart, what do you hear in the scripture, what questions do you have, or what doesn't make sense to you in the story?

Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

Read Luke 9:28-36, 37-43 again.

Some reflection questions – Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

- How do you think Peter, John, and James reacted to seeing Jesus' face and clothes change (in verse 29)?
- What do you think the Luke passage means when it says that Moses and Elijah appeared “in glory” (v. 31)?
- Why might it have been significant that Moses and Elijah were speaking to Jesus about “his departure” (or could be read as ‘exodus’)?
- When has God astounded you? [May be a positive example; for example, “looking into a clear night sky” or negative “Why didn't God heal that person?”]

- Have you ever been astonished by the church? [May be positive—“They were there for me in a time of need”—or negative—“People asked me not to come back.”]
- Toward whom are Jesus’ harsh words directed in verse 41? The crowd or the disciples exclusively? How do you think they felt at hearing Jesus’ words?
- Why do you think Peter desired to stay on the mountain of Transfiguration (v. 33)?
- Moses, Elijah, and Jesus apparently discussed Jesus’ departure in Jerusalem (v. 31). Yet Peter wanted to stay at this site of revelation and epiphany. Peter desires to stay, even when the mission is clearly to go somewhere else. How can the church have a similar mindset of desiring to stay in its current state instead of seeking to be about the mission of God in the world? How can we, individually, have a similar mindset about being reluctant to face change?

Closing Reflection Question

How is this scripture calling you to change, to see, to be or what might it be calling you to do?

Prayer (10 minutes). Share prayer requests and respond appropriately.

Sending Forth (2 minutes). After all, have shared, pray the closing prayer. Ask for a volunteer to lead the group or read the following prayer in unison:

God of Transformation, we confess that we are reluctant to change, even when it might be for our best. Help us to trust and rest in knowing that for whatever change happens, your love will remain constant. Empower us to trust that your grace is leading us toward sanctification and even glorification. **Amen.**

And now we pray The Lord’s Prayer...

Our Father who art in Heaven
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.